

UEAPME Newsflash

EC report on Small Business Act leaves a lot to be desired

The Commission adopted this week a report on the implementation of the Small Business Act at EU and national level. UEAPME was left disappointed by the text, which fails to deliver a comprehensive assessment of the status quo and does not compare and contrast Member States' actions in the last 12 months. According to UEAPME, the report is a clear demonstration of the lack of ownership of the Small Business Act by Member States, only a few of which have acted in a comprehensive manner, while most have only cherry-picked parts of the package. Commenting on the report, Secretary General Andrea Benassi acknowledged the progress made on legislation with the adoption of a number of proposals linked to the SBA and recognised the steps forward on access to finance and standardisation. He stressed, however, that SME organisations must be more involved to ensure an all-inclusive implementation of the SBA and of its principles. [Read more](#) or contact [Luc Hendrickx](#)

Social partners seminar discusses European Social Fund

The European Social Partners organised a seminar in Brussels this week. The aim was to discuss ways to improve the participation of social partners in the European Social Fund (ESF) and to use the ESF more effectively to tackle the consequences of the crisis on employment. Social Affairs Director Liliane Volozinskis chaired a panel on the first aspect and spoke at the concluding session. She stressed the importance of strong and efficient partnerships at all levels, notably at regional level, the need to simplify administrative and financial requirements, to improve the information flow and training of experts. On the crisis, she highlighted the necessity to combine short-term priorities, such as maintaining employment via training and short time schemes, with long-term structural challenges, that are the raison d'être of structural funds. With the new post 2013 programming preparatory work, the moment is right for new initiatives in which SME support must be kept, she concluded. Contact: [Liliane Volozinskis](#)

UEAPME meets civil society from Western Balkans

The European Economic and Social Committee organised a "winter school" for civil society representatives from the Western Balkans this week in Brussels. Enterprise Policy Director Luc Hendrickx spoke at the event, which was as part of a project co-financed by the European Commission's DG Enlargement. Mr Hendrickx described the role and the activities of UEAPME to participants, highlighting the importance of SMEs in Europe's economy and the key role of intermediary business organisations in representing their interests. In the ensuing debate, he discussed the application of the "Think Small First" principle to social dialogue with participants, who mostly came from the NGO world and the trade union movement. Contact: [Luc Hendrickx](#)

Season's greetings from UEAPME!



Dear readers, the newsflash takes a little break – issue 82 will be in your inbox on 8 January. Secretary General Andrea Benassi and the UEAPME Secretariat wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Chers lecteurs et lectrices, le newsflash fait un petite pause – vous recevrez le numéro 82 le 8 janvier. Le Secrétaire Général Andrea Benassi et tout le Secrétariat de l'UEAPME vous souhaitent de joyeuses fêtes de Noël et une Bonne Année!

Cari lettori e lettrici, il newsflash si prende una piccola pausa – il numero 82 Vi sarà spedito l'8 gennaio. Il Segretario Generale Andrea Benassi e tutto il Segretariato dell'UEAPME Vi augurano Buon Natale ed un felice Anno Nuovo!

Sehr geehrte Leser, der Newsflash macht eine kleine Pause – Ausgabe 82 erhalten Sie am 8. Januar. Generalsekretär Andrea Benassi und das UEAPME-Sekretariat wünschen Ihnen frohe Weihnachten und ein gutes neues Jahr!

KEY EVENTS AHEAD:

- [Fourth European workshop on ESG disclosure](#) (28/01/10, contact [Luc Hendrickx](#))

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